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TALES TO TERRIFY TIMID TEENAGERS!

EXCALIBUR

**YOU ARE GOING
TO MEET A TALL,
DARK STRANGER.**

ALAN DAVIS / MARK FANTNER

**30TH
ANNIVERSARY**



**THE
FANTASTIC
FOUR
1961-1991**

THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE TELEPORTING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDEGET AND LOCKNEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS, THEY HAVE BANNED TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...

OTHERWORLD--FABLED REALM OF ROMA, SUPREME GUARDIAN OF THE MULTIVERSE...

EXCALIBUR

ALAN DAVIS, WRITER/PENCILER
MARK FARMER, INKER
MICHAEL HEISLER, LETTERER
GLYNIS OLIVER, COLORIST
TERRY KAVANAGH, EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO, EDITOR IN CHIEF
EXCALIBUR CREATED BY
CHRIS CLAREMONT AND ALAN DAVIS

...AND HEADQUARTERS TO HER OMNIUNIVERSAL POLICE FORCE, GATHERED HERE TO JUDGE ONE OF THEIR OWN RANK IN A COURT-MARTIAL OF GREAT POMP AND CEREMONY.

WITLESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

...IN ADDITION TO THIS LIST OF SEVENTY-FOUR SPECIFIC VIOLATIONS AND A PERSISTENT DISREGARD OF OPERATIONAL DIRECTIVES...

...THE ACCUSED IS CHARGED WITH CONTRVENING ARTICLE #222765/476W OF EARTH 616 MORALITY CODE...

...BY MAKING AN UNPROVOKED ATTACK ON, AND CAUSING ACTUAL BODILY HARM TO A NATIVE OF EARTH 616, ONE KURT WAGNER, A.K.A. NIGHTCRAWLER.

BRIAN BRADDOCK--
DESIGNATED CAPTAIN
BRITAIN 616--
HOW DO YOU PLEAD?

MGRPHKL,
BSSVZ!

*LAST ISSUE.
--TERRY

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EARTH 616--
ENGLAND, HIGH
IN THE YORKSHIRE
DALES...

WE'RE NEVER GOING TO FIND
MY PARENTS. NO ONE AT THE
GYPSY CAMPS WE'VE BEEN TO
KNOW MY FAMILY.

OUR INFORMATION ABOUT
YOUR PAST IS TOO LIMITED.

I'VE TOLD YOU
EVERYTHING I
CAN REMEMBER,
RACHEL.

I WAS BORN DURING
A SEVERE BLIZZARD. MY
POWER ADAPTED ME
TO THE COLD.

"I GREW
FUR.

"THE PEOPLE IN
THE CAMP
THOUGHT I WAS
CURSED... A
MONSTER.

"AND I BECAME
ONE SHAPED BY
THE SUPERSTITIOUS
FEARS THAT
SURROUNDED ME.

"MY FOLKS HID ME IN A
CARAVAN. I WATCHED TV.
ALL DAY. I ONLY WENT
OUTSIDE AT NIGHT, WHEN
WE WERE FAR FROM
TOWNS.*

"EVERYTHING ELSE
IS FUZZY--THE PHASES
OF THE MOON AFFECTED
MY BEHAVIOR
BACK THEN..."

*AS DETAILED
IN THE
CAPTAIN
BRITAIN
TRADE PAPER-
BACK--TERRY

WE ALL REMEMBER
MORE THAN WE ARE
AWARE OF, MEGGAN.
I COULD ACCESS
YOUR SUBCON-
SCIOUS MEMORY...?

IF YOU
THINK IT WILL
HELP.

...BEFORE I LEARNED
HOW TO CONTROL MY
POWER, BRIAN SAID IT
MADE MY MEMORY BLURRY
...I CAN'T EVEN REMEM-
BER MY PARENTS' FACES.

RACHEL PROTECTS HER
CONSCIOUSNESS, FEELS
RADIATED EMOTIONS OF
APPREHENSION,
CONFUSION...

...AND AS SHE
TOUCHES MEGGAN'S
MIND, TRUST AND
LOVE.

CAUTIOUSLY, SHE PROBES
DEEPER, PREPARED FOR
THE NORMAL ARRAY OF
PSYCHIC SHIELDS...

...BUT THERE
ARE NONE.

RACHEL PLUNGES
INTO A SEA OF
SPLINTERED MEMORY--

--SWIRLING SHARDS OF
EXPERIENCE FALL
APART IN EVER-CHANG-
ING PATTERNS OF
REMINISCENCE--

--THE RAGING TIDE
OF RAW EMOTION
OVERWHELMS HER.

SHE FEELS
HERSELF
DROWNING.



MY MIND IS A CLUTTER OF JUMBLED MEMORIES. I CAN'T SEPARATE THE ONES I'VE LIVED THROUGH FROM THOSE I WAS PROGRAMMED WITH. I HAVE TO LIVE IN THE PRESENT.

YOURS IS YOUR NATURAL STATE. YOU ACCEPT THE PAST WITHOUT OPINION OR REGRET AND YOU HOLD NO DREAMS OR ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE. YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE FOR THE MOMENT.



IT MIGHT EXPLAIN THE RAPPORT WE SHARE.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

NEITHER DO I, REALLY, BUT WE CAN EXPLORE IT LATER...



...WHEN WE PSI-LINKED, I TOUCHED SOMETHING THAT MADE ME RECALL SOME OLD FRIENDS BRIAN ONCE MENTIONED.

THE SCOTTS, OF COURSE...!



JOSIE KNEW ME WHEN I WAS IN MY OLD FORM. SHE MIGHT REMEMBER SOMETHING.



SHE LIVES IN LONDON.

ELSEWHERE...

ALISTAIRE STUART, ECLECTIC GENIUS, RADICAL PHILOSOPHER AND SENIOR CONSULTING SCIENTIST TO W.H.O. --

--HAS TAKEN EIGHT MINUTES AND TWELVE SECONDS TO CROSS THE ROCKY CAUSEWAY...

...DURING THAT TIME, HE HAS DRAWN ON ALL HIS ANALYTICAL SKILLS TO DELIVER A CAREFULLY MEASURED REACTION TO THE MODIFIED EXCALIBUR LIGHTHOUSE.

* WEIRD HAPPENINGS ORGANIZATION -- TERRY.

IT'S A GIANT MUSHROOM! *SNIGGER*

IT COULDN'T LOOK MORE RIDICULOUS *CHUCKLE* IF THEY PAINTED IT PINK WITH YELLOW DOTS.



HERE I WAS WORRYING ABOUT AN APPROPRIATE LINE OF CHAT TO ENTICE THE DELICIOUS RACHEL TO JOIN ME ON MY SAB-BATICAL TO THE EMERALD ISLE...



...WHEN SHE WILL BE OBVIOUSLY ONLY TOO GLAD TO ESCAPE FROM THIS--



--MADHOUSE.



OW!
ALIEN WAR ZONE...
PHASED INTO ALTERNATE REALITY...



ALISTAIRE IS SPARED FURTHER PAIN AS HE TUMBLES INTO THE LIGHTHOUSE'S NULL-GRAV ELEVATOR...

...AND SPINS UPWARD
INSIDE THE COLLAR
OF ZERO GRAVITY.



THERE'S NO
PLACE LIKE
HOME... THERE'S
NO PLACE
LIKE HOME...

HELLO,
ALISTAIRE.



KURT, KITTY,
LOCKHEED, WIDGET
-- I'VE MADE IT
BACK TO EARTH...

YOU NEVER LEFT,
SILLY.



I DIDN'T?
WHAT HIT ME...
WHAT HIT
KURT...?

WHAT
DO YOU WANT,
ALISTAIRE?

OH! RIGHT... I'VE BEEN
INVITED TO A RATHER
INTERESTING ARCHAEO-
LOGICAL DIG IN
IRELAND...

...SO I DROPPED BY--
SINCE I WAS IN THE
NEIGHBORHOOD-- TO SEE
IF RACHEL MIGHT BE ...
ANEM?



...INTERESTED
IN JOINING ME.

SHE'S
GONE TO LONDON--
UNFORTUNATELY--

--BUT I WOULDN'T
MIND KEEPING YOU
COMPANY.



ACTUALLY...
I WAS... ER...

...WELL,
I MEAN TO
SAY...



...OF COURSE
YOU CAN.

JUST LET
ME GRAB A FEW
THINGS.





EARTH 14B...

...KNOWN AS
E'ERATH TO ITS
INHABITANTS—

—AN OPPRESSED PEOPLE
RISEN NOW TO CHALLENGE
THE MASSIVE FORCES OF
THE EVIL TYRANT, NECROM.

AND ALWAYS
WHERE THE BATTLE
IS THICKEST...

...THE PEOPLE'S
CHAMPION,
KYLUN...

...AND THEIR
PRINCESS
SA'TNEEN.



THE REBELLION CONTINUES.



MUCH LATER...

--AND THE FIGHT REALLY UPSET MEGGAN. BRIAN CAN BE SUCH AN INSENSITIVE JERK.

HE CARES, RACHEL. SOMETIMES TOO MUCH FOR HIS OWN GOOD.

BRIAN JUST ISN'T A SPONTANEOUS PERSON. HE WAS EDUCATED FOR A SAFE, PREDICTABLE LIFE OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION.

HE WASN'T PREPARED TO BE CAPTAIN BRITAIN.

I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I MET BRIAN. MY SON MICKY HAD JUST DIED.

IT WAS AN ACCIDENT. BUT BRIAN FELT RESPONSIBLE. HE WAS CONSUMED WITH GUILT.

WE ALL SHARED THE LOSS, AND FOR A TIME, BRIAN AND MEGGAN WERE LIKE FAMILY.

"CAPTAIN BRITAIN TRADE PAPERBACK"
--TERRY

BUT BRIAN WAS AFRAID OF INVOLVING US IN THE CONSTANT DANGER US ALL LIVE WITH.

HE STILL WRITES, SENDS CARDS AND FLOWERS...

...TELL BRIAN I SEND MY LOVE.

RACHEL...

I WILL.

...JOSIE SAYS THE POLICE DON'T LET THE GYPSIES CAMP AROUND HERE ANYMORE--

--BUT ONE OF THEM TURNED RESPECTABLE AND SET UP SHOP AS A FORTUNE TELLER...

...SHE CALLS HERSELF MADAM ZELDA.

YOUR FUTURE
YOUR PAST

MADAM ZELDA

SEES ALL
CONSULTATIONS
MON-FRI 5PM-10PM
45 BROADWAY
BEXLEYHEATH, KENT



HULLO, KURT, BEEN IN A SCRAP, EH!

THIS IS MISS EMELIA WITHERSPOON...

... A CLAIRVOYANT, WHO HAS BUILT UP QUITE A REPUTATION AT SCOTLAND YARD.

ENCHANTED.

MY, MY, WHAT A DEVILISHLY HANDSOME ROGUE YOU ARE.

MIGHT I BE PERMITTED TO STROKE YOUR FUR?

COMMANDER THOMAS? PLEASE COME IN.

PLEASE.

MY, MY, BLUE VELVET.

SORRY TO INTERRUPT, BUT WE'RE HERE FOR A REASON.

YES, INDEED, MOST URGENT.

MISS WITHERSPOON PREDICTED A SERIES OF ROBBERIES, SO WE PREPARED AIRTIGHT SECURITY WITH THE MOST SOPHISTICATED SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS...

... BUT, WE WERE UNABLE TO DETECT THE THIEF, LET ALONE APPREHEND HIM.

THEY ARE NOT HERE AND I, AS YOU CAN SEE, AM INCAPACITATED.

WHY CAN'T THEY HELP?

TODAYS LETTERS ARE P AND A AND THE NUMBER IS NINE.

NO... IT'S TOO RIDICULOUS--

WE'RE DESPERATE.

OBVIOUSLY, SOME PARA-HUMAN AGENCY IS BEHIND THE CRIMES-- WE NEED EXCALIBUR'S HELP.

YOU CANNOT IGNORE YOUR DUTY, YOUNG MAN. THIS IS MERELY THE PRELUDE.









YOU'RE CRAZY! I CAUGHT THE THIEF. YOU MADE ME LOSE HIM... IT!

RUBBISH! I SAW YOU STEALING A BRONZE DAGGER IN ONE OF THOSE FLASH BEAMS OF YOURS.

EXCUSE ME, SIR.

SHE'S TELLING THE TRUTH. A VAGUE HUMANOID SHAPE SHOWED UP ON THE UV IMAGE ENHANCER. IT WAS INVISIBLE ON ALL OTHER WAVE-LENGTHS.

WELL?!

JUST YOU KEEP OUT OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS IN FUTURE.

WHAT HAPPENED?

GIANT... FIREBIRD...

NOTHING IMPORTANT. DID MADAM ZELDA TELL YOU ANYTHING?

OH, YES. SHE HAD HEARD ABOUT A MAGIC CREATURE THAT WAS HIDDEN IN A GYPSY CARAVAN...

...SHE THOUGHT IT WAS A STORY--TILL SHE MET ME. THE LAST SHE HEARD, MY PARENTS HAD GONE TO FRANCE.

COULDN'T SHE BE MORE SPECIFIC?

NO, I ASKED HER TO LOOK IN HER CRYSTAL BALL, BUT SHE SAID IT WAS A SCAM--WHAT DOES "SCAM" MEAN?

IT MEANS SHE WAS TELLING YOU THE TRUTH.







SWORD STROKES

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TERRY KAWANAGH
EDITOR
MARK POWERS
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Mighty Marvel,

When I heard Alan Davis was returning, I was the happiest person on Earth. The stories and art have been so dull since the big A.D. left!

How's about bringing the Wolverines back? They're the best villains (along with the Crazy Gang) that Excalibur have ever faced.

This is my first time ever writing to a comic, but after reading EXCALIBUR #40, "The Trial of Lockheed," I know I had to write. I was really unhappy until I got to the last 4 panels on page 27. Lockheed is one of my favorite characters on the team. Having the X-Men get out of the chopper on the last page was a surprise.

Until Phoenix marries Howard the Duck, Make Mine EXCALIBUR!

Kahlen Burgwin
P.O. Box 279
Indianapolis, IN 46342

Well, Kahlen, your reaction to the only one to have a strong reaction to issue #40! Both Lockheed and the appearance of the X-Men generated a huge response—so huge, in fact, that although much of last issue's letters page was devoted to issue #40, we decided to try to print a few more letters here.

Read on!

Dear Sword Strokes,

Please do not do this again. Lockheed is a great character and issue #40 went a long way to ruining him. Part of his charm when he first appeared way back in X-MEN #166 was how he always seemed to know what Kitty was thinking even though he could not verbally communicate. Although he did give an occasional "CooOooOoo", "Feh!", or "ROAR!", he still had no real language to speak of.

On a good note, I'm ecstatic to hear of the return of Alan Davis. He draws EXCALIBUR like no one else can. It's also good to see the X-Men(?) back in these pages. Are these the X-Men?

Well, gotta go. One more thing: DON'T DO THIS AGAIN!!!!

Michael J. Church
(Address withheld upon request)

Oh, Michael, now why would you doubt for even a moment that the group at the end of issue #40 was really the X-Men? We just can't figure you out!

Dear Sword Strokes,

JUST LOVED THE LOCKHEED STORY!!! And I thought the "poetic" style of speaking really helped to make the story and indeed the character of Lockheed sufficiently different to take the story into the realm of greatness!

I have been a firm follower of EXCALIBUR since it first started (bring back the Wolverines, I say...), which leads to my reply to the letter in an earlier issue concerning a Kitty Pryde and Blyanna Rasputin Fan Club. Since then, I have come to an arrangement with its President, the great emperor Spassov and I am now his left hand man

over here in England. For any readers in England and Europe, they can now join the International Fan Club of SOULMATES! by writing to 93a Malcom Street, Heaton, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE6 5PN, England.

I must also add that I have just finished the EXCALIBUR SPECIAL: POSSESSED. What can I say...the art struck me as soon as I opened it. Now this is why I buy comics!!

Nicholas Hood
Unit 15
25 Low Filar Street
Newcastle Upon Tyne
NE1 5UE England

Good news, Nicholas! There will be a second EXCALIBUR SPECIAL this Fall! Written by Scott Lobdell, the poet you so enjoyed in issue #40, it will feature art by Erik Larsen, Rick Leonardi, Jackson Guice, Dwayne Turner, Sam Keith, Terry Austin, Joe Rubinstein, and Klaus Jensen. Whew! What a line-up!

Dear Sword Strokes,

I must say that you've done an excellent job with EXCALIBUR. I really enjoyed issue #40. I was so glad to see a book concerning Lockheed. I want to see more of him.

Also, I've loved what you've done with Phoenix. I hope we will see a lot more of her. She's my favorite.

Well, until Nightcrawler wants to sing in a rock group, Make Mine Marvel.

Shane Bekkemellom
6705 Village Road
Salt Lake City, UT 84121

More Lockheed, Shane? Aren't you ever satisfied?

Dear Sword Strokes,

When I first got EXCALIBUR #31 from a friend, I really enjoyed it. So I started to collect EXCALIBUR, and now I have at least half of all the issues.

I loved issue #40 (when Lockheed goes on trial). It was fantastic! I would recommend EXCALIBUR to anyone who doesn't already read it.

Is it possible that you could feature only Shadowcat and Nightcrawler in an issue?

Raymond Bradley
(Address withheld upon request)

Welcome aboard, Raymond! Watch for future issues by Alan Davis, as he will be featuring individual members of EXCALIBUR!

Sword Strokes,

RE: Issue #40, "The Trial of Lockheed."

Maybe this was a dream, maybe it was a hoax, maybe it was just an imaginary tale. Maybe I just didn't like the story. I remember when Lockheed was first introduced in X-MEN, and I immediately liked him and knew that there was more to his story, but I didn't mind not knowing. Hopefully this tale was just images that a dragon has when he's put under a knife — I don't know, I don't have any dragon friends.

The only redeeming factor of this story was the last page panel of those X-People. Hoping next issue isn't a hoax, that they really do get back together.

Brent Bottjen
16502 Regina Circle #3
Huntington Beach, CA 92649

Geez, this story sure brought out some strong feelings! Hang in there, Brent!

Dear Writers of EXCALIBUR,

I just picked up issue #40 the other day, and I have one thing to say: IT'S ABOUT TIME!!! After forty issues of EXCALIBUR, plus two bookshelves, and a series in MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS, they are finally meeting the X-Men. Not the X-Babies, the nightmare version of the X-Men, Meggan impersonating the X-Men's powers, the demon X-Men, or the Vega-Men. It is the real X-Men. At least it better be, because this reunion is long overdue — like two years.

Before I sign off — keep Lockheed alive!
Steve Sosnoski
37540 Fieldcrest Lane
Sterling Hts., MI 48077

It better be the real X-Men, Steve? Hope you weren't disappointed with issue #41!

Yo, Lobdell,

Yeah, right...the X-Men. Surrre. That's the ticket. If that's the real X-Men, then my name is Ruby Bagonia. Give me a break, and really do bring the real X-Men to this comic!

Carlos M. Fernandez
8234 S. Lagoon Dr.
Panama City Beach, FL 32408

Can't fool you for a second, eh Carlos?

Dear Sword Strokes,

I think that you guys are doing a really rad job. I think that each member of Excalibur is special in their own way. I do not know if the writers and the artists are wizards or witches, but they somehow get a little magic in each word and picture. I think that my favorite EXCALIBUR comic is #40. I think that EXCALIBUR makes any DC comic look like a Sunday morning comic strip.

Chris (last name illegible)
21 Ormond St.
Dix Hills, NY 11746

Wizards and witches abound here, Chris! Or at the very least, creative folk who do know how to "work a little magic!"

NEXT ISSUE:
RIOT ON OTHERWORLD!
THE INTRODUCTION OF ...
THE X-MEN! AND THAT'S ONLY
THE BEGINNING! ...